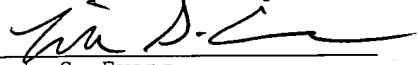


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(s)

  
Linda S. Evans

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thurmond et al. Atty. Docket: ORT-1458  
Serial No.: 10/010,580 Art Unit: 1652  
Filed: November 8, 2001 Examiner: William W. Moore  
For: Polynucleotide And Polypeptide Sequences Of Canine Cathepsin S

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

Introductory Remarks

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2003, in the above-identified application. A petition and the fee for a two-month extension of time accompany this response. In the event the enclosed payment is insufficient or any other fees not accounted for herewith are required for the filing of this response, please charge all necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 10-0750.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the following amendments and remarks.